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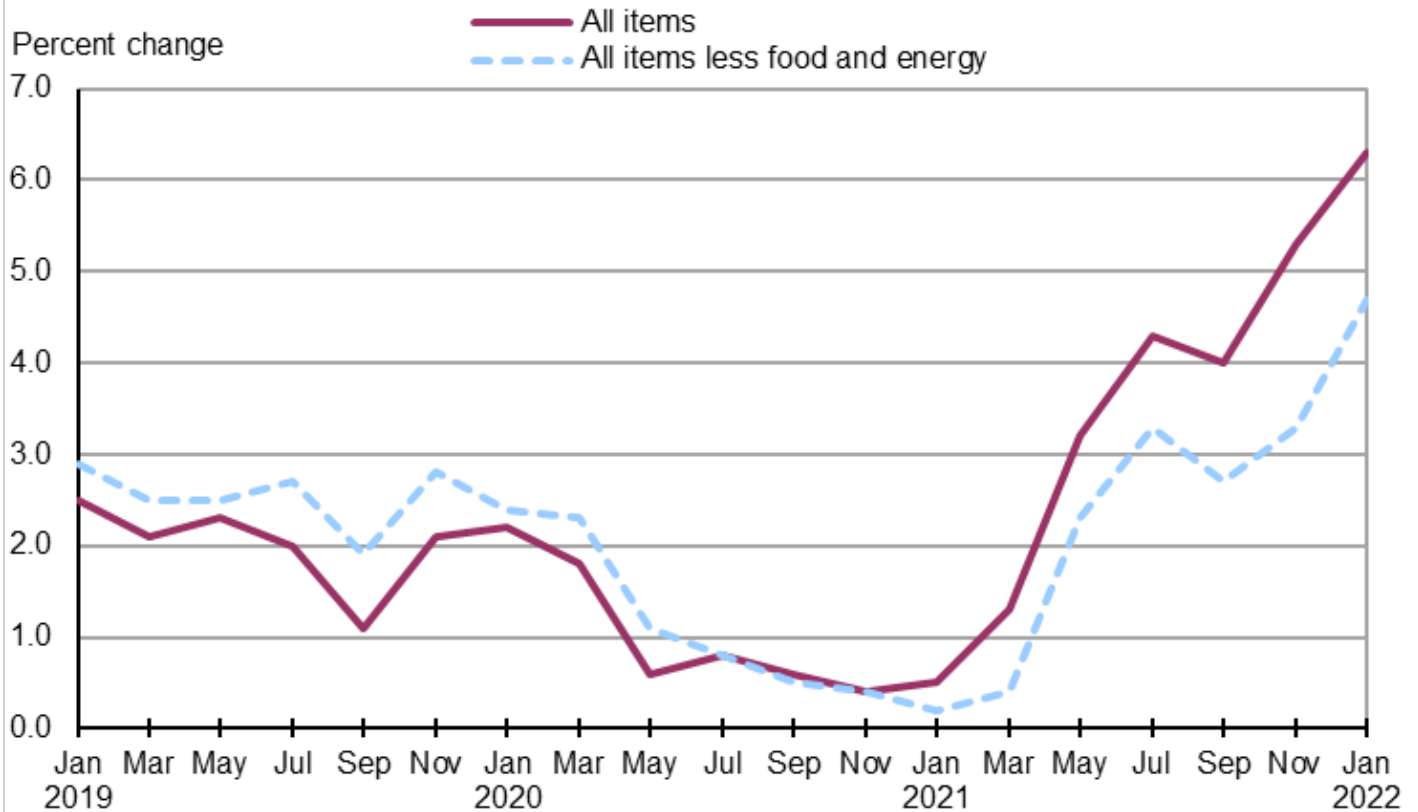
## **Consumer Price Index, Boston-Cambridge-Newton – January 2022**

**Area prices were up 1.6 percent over the past two months, up 6.3 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Boston area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.6 percent for the two months ending in January 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Regional Commissioner William J. Sibley noted that the January increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter, new and used vehicles, and energy. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 6.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) This was the largest annual increase recorded in the Boston area since July 2008. The index for all items less food and energy rose 4.7 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 29.5 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices rose 6.0 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH, January 2019–January 2022**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices advanced 1.6 percent for the two months ending in January. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home increased 1.4 percent, and prices for food away from home advanced 1.9 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 6.0 percent. Prices for food at home increased 3.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 9.6 percent.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 3.1 percent for the two months ending in January. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (9.0 percent). Prices for natural gas service edged up 0.2 percent, while prices for gasoline decreased 0.8 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 29.5 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (46.8 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service advanced 16.1 percent, and prices for electricity jumped 16.0 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent in the latest two-month period. This was largely due to higher prices for shelter (1.7 percent), new and used motor vehicles (3.2 percent), and medical care (1.5 percent). Within shelter and new and used motor vehicles, price increases were noted for owners' equivalent rent of residences (+1.1 percent) and used cars and trucks (+4.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 4.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.3 percent), new and used motor vehicles (24.4 percent), and household furnishings and operations (6.8 percent), its largest yearly advance since January 1989 (7.8 percent). Within new and used motor vehicles and shelter, higher prices for used cars and trucks and owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 42.9 and 3.5 percent, respectively, led the increases.

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**The Consumer Price Index for February 2022 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**











































The Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass.-N.H. Core Based Statistical Area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts; Rockingham, Strafford Counties in New Hampshire.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table A. Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**















Month	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	1.1	2.8	0.5	2.5	0.6	2.2	0.7	0.5	1.6	6.3
March .....	0.9	3.6	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.8	0.9	1.3		
May.....	0.0	3.2	0.2	2.3	-1.0	0.6	0.8	3.2		
July .....	0.3	3.4	0.0	2.0	0.2	0.8	1.2	4.3		
September.....	1.2	3.3	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.6	-0.1	4.0		
November.....	-0.4	3.2	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.4	1.7	5.3		

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Ma.-N.H. (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021
All items .....		299.723		304.634	6.3	1.6	
All items (1967 = 100) .....		871.152		885.427			
Food and beverages .....		296.279		300.803	5.6	1.5	
Food .....		299.367		304.158	6.0	1.6	
Food at home .....		270.693	269.553	274.441	3.6	1.4	1.8
Cereal and bakery products .....		326.540		335.316	7.6	2.7	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....		296.777		291.535	4.6	-1.8	
Dairy and related products .....		296.859		307.660	6.2	3.6	
Fruits and vegetables .....		351.027		348.349	1.4	-0.8	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....		160.323		170.778	1.3	6.5	
Other food at home .....		208.698		212.911	2.4	2.0	
Food away from home .....		349.756		356.507	9.6	1.9	
Alcoholic beverages .....		267.106		268.338	0.9	0.5	
Housing .....		313.236		319.796	5.6	2.1	
Shelter .....		367.731	373.016	374.094	4.3	1.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2) .....		379.851	381.263	383.389	2.2	0.9	0.6
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)(3)(4) .....		395.614	398.589	399.853	3.5	1.1	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)(3)(4) .....		395.614	398.589	399.853	3.5	1.1	0.3
Fuels and utilities .....		341.583		358.687	16.7	5.0	
Household energy .....		289.413	291.602	306.087	19.2	5.8	5.0
Energy services(2) .....		306.939	310.025	325.196	16.3	5.9	4.9
Electricity(2) .....		329.685	330.250	359.213	16.0	9.0	8.8
Utility (piped) gas service(2) .....		251.242	257.311	251.671	16.1	0.2	-2.2
Household furnishings and operations .....		138.726		142.242	6.8	2.5	
Apparel .....		127.601		132.805	7.8	4.1	
Transportation .....		220.436		222.369	18.5	0.9	
Private transportation .....		230.899		233.547	21.9	1.1	
New and used motor vehicles(5) .....		131.202		135.405	24.4	3.2	
New Vehicles(1) .....		231.917		233.835	8.2	0.8	
Used cars and trucks(1) .....		468.133		490.035	42.9	4.7	
Motor fuel .....		296.170	295.492	293.865	46.7	-0.8	-0.6
Gasoline (all types) .....		293.163	292.365	290.790	46.8	-0.8	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(6) .....		285.224	284.296	282.623	48.3	-0.9	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(6)(7) .....		311.498	311.853	310.998	39.4	-0.2	-0.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(6) .....		301.931	301.995	301.359	38.0	-0.2	-0.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....							
Medical care .....		704.062		714.612	3.0	1.5	
Recreation(5) .....		115.947		117.206	1.0	1.1	
Education and communication(5) .....		175.610		176.258	2.0	0.4	
Tuition, other fees, and child care(1) .....		1,433.804		1,433.865	0.9	0.0	
Other goods and services .....		538.772		556.021	7.1	3.2	
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
Commodities .....		212.686		216.661	11.4	1.9	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Ma.-N.H. (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021
Commodities less food and beverages .....		169.054		172.623	16.0	2.1	
Nondurables less food and beverages...		211.733		214.905	16.7	1.5	
Durables .....		126.226		129.797	15.1	2.8	
Services .....		378.319		384.053	3.9	1.5	
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less shelter .....		275.433		279.780	7.5	1.6	
All items less medical care .....		284.263		288.953	6.6	1.6	
Commodities less food .....		173.065		176.604	15.1	2.0	
Nondurables .....		252.881		256.708	10.2	1.5	
Nondurables less food .....		214.730		217.785	15.0	1.4	
Services less rent of shelter(3) .....		407.640		412.668	3.4	1.2	
Services less medical care services .....		354.771		360.203	4.1	1.5	
Energy .....		289.779	290.735	298.633	29.5	3.1	2.7
All items less energy .....		305.472		310.180	4.9	1.5	
All items less food and energy .....		307.581		312.346	4.7	1.5	

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on a January 1978=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(4) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(6) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(7) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.